

**FAMILY BIBLE HOUR**

16 July 2017

“The Compelling Community”  
Lesson 11: Evangelise as a Community

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*“The local church isn’t simply the context and apologetic for evangelism. It is the goal of evangelism. Evangelism should result in new churches as we fulfil the Great Commission through church planting.”*

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**Evangelism is Both Personal and Corporate**

1. In what sense do you think evangelism must be personal? In what sense must it be corporate? What role does the local church play in the Christian’s evangelism?

Paul evangelised the Corinthians “so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God” (1 Corinthians 2:3–5). We should likewise want the faith of those we evangelise to rest not in our wisdom but in God’s power. Where is God’s power on earth most visible?

Where in the Bible would you go to show that evangelism is indeed designed to be corporate? How might the following texts highlight this corporate nature of evangelism: Deuteronomy 4:6–7; Ezekiel 36:20–21; John 13:35.

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*“The local church is not evangelism. But the local church should be the power of evangelism. As such, evangelism should be both corporate and personal. It is personal; it generally involves explaining the gospel in the context of friendship rather than simply bringing someone to church. And it is corporate; without introducing non-Christians to the local church, evangelism ignores the greatest evidence we have for the truth of the gospel.”*

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**Advice for Effective Evangelism**

2. The challenge ever before the Christian is, how do I expose my non-Christian friends, coworkers, relatives, and neighbours to the gospel witness of the local church. How might the following suggestions help in this regard?
  - a. Talk about life in the church. *“Conversation about your faith shouldn’t simply explain the gospel. It should also describe life in the church that the gospel produces.”*

If we wish to do what Jamie Dunlop suggests above, does that mean that we should air all the church’s dirty laundry to the world? If not, what does it mean?

- b. Mix your circles of hospitality. *“If you have non-Christian friends you’ve shared the gospel with, include some friends from the church at meals with them.”*

If you follow the counsel above, do you think that all conversations need to be prearranged to focus on the specifics of the gospel message? Why, or why not?

### The Church’s Approach to Evangelism

3. Ought the local church to gear its Lord’s Day service primarily at unbelievers or believers? Explain.

Why might a church that deliberately gears its services toward non-Christians actually find that they are unable to attract those they are trying to reach? In what way might gearing services specifically to believers actually help the church reach unbelievers?

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*“In the name of reaching the world, some churches have embraced a consumerist approach that only encourages self-oriented concern.”*

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4. Does gearing worship primarily toward believers mean that the church *cannot* make its services accessible to unbelievers? How does 1 Corinthians 14:20–25 speak to this matter?

Practically, how can a church (via its leaders) make its worship services, even as they are primarily geared to believers, accessible to unbelievers?

Why is it important for a church’s members to see that its services also consider the presence of unbelievers?

5. Is it the task of church leaders to create evangelistic opportunities for the church? Why, or why not?

What, potentially, is a danger when the evangelistic efforts of a church are spearheaded only by church officers? How might such a church ultimately not foster a culture in which its membership is passionate about reaching the lost?